Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 254594
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EA-10 ARA-10 INT-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
/118 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DLSCHIELE:EK
APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN
L/UNA:DSTEWART
EA/ANP:WBODDE
ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA
INTERIOR:JDEYOUNG
IO/UNP:RLBARRY
----------110458 231441Z /40
R 230643Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 254594

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: UNGA, AQ, GQ, VQ

SUBJECT:FOURTH COMMITTEE: US TERRITORIES

1. DURING FOURTH COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF SMALL TERRITORIES, USUN SHOULD MAKE A STATEMENT ON US TERRITORIES ON WHICH WE TRANSMIT INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLE 73E OF THE CHARTER. STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT CONCERNING THE US TERRITORIES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE FOURTH COMMITTEE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 254594

-- THE UNITED STATES TRANSMITS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL DETAILED INFORMATION ON AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS IN ACCORDANCE WVTH ARTICLE 73E OF THE CHARTER, AND THE COMMITTEE ALSO HAS AVAILABLE THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GA RESOLUTION 1514(XV). WE ARE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS ABLE TO ACCEPT OUR INVITATION TO DISPATCH A VISITING MISSION TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS TO OBSERVE CONDITIONS IN THE TERRITORY, AND THAT THE REPORT OF THE VISITING MISSION IS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

-- IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION OTHERWISE AVAILABLE, WE WISH TO SUMMARIZE THE RECORD OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO PROGRESS TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN EACH OF THE TERRITORIES.

-- IN AUGUST 1976 THE VOTERS OF AMERICAN SAMOA DECIDED IN A REFERENDUM THAT THEY WISHED TO ELECT THEIR OWN GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. THIS DECISION, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY 70 PERCENT OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE REFERENDUM, IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF ENABLING LEGISLATION ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA. THE ELECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 8, AND THE WINNER WILL BE INSTALLED AS THE FIRST ELECTED GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA ON JANUARY 3, 1978.

-- THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE OTHER UNITED STATES TERRITORIES, WHERE BOTH GOVERNORS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LEGISLATORS ARE ELECTED ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFERAGE. THE TRADITIONAL SOCIAL STRUCTURE IS STRONGER IN SAMOA AND THIS FACT IS REFLECTED IN GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE TERRITORIAL LEVEL. VILLAGE COUNCILS ARE HEADED BY TRADITIONAL CHIEFS AND MEMBERSHIP IN ONE HOUSE OF THE BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE IS RESTRICTED TO TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF THE FAMILY CLANS. IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH THERE IS A SECRETARY OF SAMOAN AFFAIRS, WHO IS A HIGH PARAMOUNT CHIEF. THESE INSTITUTIONS HAVE NO DIRECT COUNTERPART IN THE OTHER U.S. TERRITORIES AND REFLECT THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEVELOP SELF-GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFIC WISHES AND CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLES CONCERNED.

-- IN GUAM, TOO, THERE HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS. DELEGATES TO A GUAM CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WERE ELECTED ON APRIL 16, 1977 AND WE EXPECT THAT A CONSTITUTION WILL HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BY THE END OF OCTOBER. A PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROVIDES FOR A SYSTEM OF "SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." IT ESTABLISHES A REPUBLICAN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND A LOCAL COURT SYSTEM, AND IT CONTAINS A BILL OF RIGHTS. THE PEOPLE OF GUAM ARE ALREADY UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE UNITED STATES HAS EXTENDED TO THE TERRITORY SINCE 1898. NOTHING IN THE DRAFT WOULD ALTER THAT SITUATION. THE GUAM CONSTITUTION WILL BE PUT TO A VOTE IN

A REFERENDUM BEFORE TAKING EFFECT IN THE TERRITORY.

-- THE STATUS OF GUAM AS A UNITED STATES TERRITORY WITH A LOCALLY DRAFTED CONSTITUTION WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AS EXPRESSED IN A STATUS REFERENDUM WHICH WAS HELD BY THE GUAM LEGISLATURE ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1976. AT THAT TIME OVER 90
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PERCENT OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE REFERENDUM VOTED TO REMAIN A PART OF THE UNITED STATES, WHILE ONLY 5.6 PERCENT VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE. TO BE SPECIFIC, 58.1 PERCENT VOTED FOR GUAM TO CONTINUE ITS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES BUT TO DRAFT ITS OWN CONSTITUTION. THE STATUS QUO RECEIVED 9 PERCENT OF THE VOTES, STATEHOOD RECEIVED 23.8 PERCENT, AND 3.5 PERCENT VOTED FOR "OTHER."

-- WE NOTE THAT THE COMMITTEE OF 24 HAS EXPRESSED ITS "STRONG VIEW THAT THE PRESENCE OF UNITED STATES BASES ON GUAM SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INHIBIT THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY FROM EXERCISING FREELY THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION 1514(XV) AS WELL AS THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS." I CAN ASSURE THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FULLY COMMITED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND THAT WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT OUR BASES SHOULD NOT AND DO NOT INHIBIT THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY IN THE FREE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHTS. GUAMANIANS ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ENJOY THE PROTECTIONS, RIGHTS AND BENEFITS GUARANTEED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. THE PEOPLE OF GUAM HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS REGARDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION AS ARE ASSURED OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS. THESE RIGHTS, AS WELL AS THE RIGHT OF A FREE PRESS, ARE ASSURED TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS. GUAMANIANS FREELY ELECT THEIR OWN LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR, NEITHER OF WHICH ARE INHIBITED IN THEIR FREE EXPRESSION OF VIEWS BY THE PRESENCE OF THE MILITARY BASES. IN THIS REGARD, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY BE INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT THE GUAM LEGISLATURE ON DECEMBER 3, 1976
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ADOPTED A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS ON GUAM.

-- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE NEED FOR DIVERSIFICATION IN THE ECONOMY OF GUAM, IN ORDER TO REDUCE ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE IS WORKING WITH THE GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE TERRITORY WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL ECONOMY, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE PAID SEVERAL VISITS TO GUAM SINCE OCTOBER 1976.

-- PROGRESS TOWARD FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS IS DESCRIBED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL IN THE REPORT OF THE VISITING MISSION WHICH WAS IN THE TERRITORY AT THE INVITATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FROM APRIL 24 TO MAY 1, 1977. DELEGATES TO A TERRITORY-WIDE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WERE ELECTED ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1977 AND THEY CONVENED ON OCTOBER 3 TO BEGIN WORKING ON A LOCAL CONSTITUTION. AS IN THE CASE OF GUAM, THE CONSTITUTION WHICH RESULTS FROM THIS PROCESS WILL BE PUT TO A VOTE IN A POPULAR REFERENDUM BEFORE IT TAKES EFFECT IN THE TERRITORY.

-- WE TAKE PARTICULAR PRIDE AND SATISFACTION IN THOSE PORTIONS OF THE VISITING MISSION REPORT WHICH COMMENT ON AND DESCRIBE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND FREEDOMS WHICH PREVAIL IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. AS ARE THE PEOPLE OF GUAM, VIRGIN ISLANDERS ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ENJOY THE PROTECTIONS AND BENEFITS OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND ITS BILL OF RIGHTS.

-- IN SUMMARY, EACH OF THE THREE UNITED STATES

TERRITORIES WHICH THIS BODY CONSIDERS IS PROGRESSING TOWARD A FULL MEASURE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 73 OF THE CHARTER. THIS PROGRESS IS BEING MADE UNDER CONDITIONS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREE SPEECH. IT IS BASED ON THE FREELY EXPRESSED WILL OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE. MY GOVERNMENT IS PROUD OF ITS WELL-ESTABLISHED RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

SELF-DETERMINATION AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT THE STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CORRESPONDS TO THE WISHES OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE.

2. SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS WILL FOLLOW CONCERNING EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE ON THE SEPARATE RESOLUTIONS. WE INTEND TO USE THESE EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE TO REAFFIRM USG VIEWS ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND RESOLUTION 1514.

3. USG VIEWS ON COMMITTEE OF 24 LACK OF JURISDICTION TO CONSIDER PUERTO RICO AND THE TRUST TERRITORY WILL BE CONTAINED IN INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON OMNIBUS DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTION, ADOPTING C-24 REPORT. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE254594
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLSCHIELE:EK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770390-1264
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771028/aaaaaxtz.tel
Line Count: 238
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: baac4028-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 812022
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOURTH COMMITTEE: US TERRITORIES
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, AQ, GQ, VQ, UNGA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/baac4028-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009